Manufacture of Cigarettes

1. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturing of cigarettes is more harmful for its workers than smokers;

(b) if so, the details fo the study conducted in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for issuing more licences to multinational companies in this field?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that they are not aware of any reports on the health hazards among workers engaged in the manufacture of cigarettes.

(c) Manufacture of cigarettes attracts compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act and applications received for industrial licences are considered on merits as per the policy irrespective of the fact whether the applicant is a multinational company or an Indian company. During last 4 years, only M/s. R.J. Reynold Tobacco International S.A. Switzerland has been granted foreign collaboration approval for setting up of a joint venture company in India for the manufacture of cigarettes.

[Translation]

Procurement of Iron-ore by MMTC from Madhya Pradesh

2. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL . Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of iron-ore procured by the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation from its mines in Madhya Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan, mines-wise, year-wise;

(b) whether there is any need to augment the quantity of iron-ore from these mines for export purpose; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the MMTC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of mines-wise, year-wise quantities of iron ore procured by MMTC from mines in MP during the Eighth Five Year Plan period are furnished below:

(In lakh tonnes)

	Kirandul		Bacheli		Total
	Lumps	Fines	Lumps	Fines	
1992-93	19.77	1.08	13.41	7.99	42.25
1993-94	19.14	3.21	10.32	10.33	43.00
1994-95	21.56	2.07	4.95	12.52	41.10
1995-96	18.60	1.30	7.15	10.35	37.40
1996-97 (Upto Jan.'97)	12.56	1.78	5.28	11.06	30.68

(b) Iron ore from Bailadila mines has adequate demand in the international market but due to pressures of domestic demand, export of this ore is regulated through quantitative ceilings fixed by the Govt.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Smuggling of Gold

3. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate(ED) claims to have detected a new route for gold smuggling from the Common Wealth of Independent States countries following the arrest of two persons in the Capital on charges of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) violation;

(b) if so, the outcome of the investigation made in this case; and

(c) the preventive measures taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Investigations are at a preliminary stage.

(c) A constant vigil is maintained to keep a check on such illegal activities.

Assistance for Sericulture

4. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to provide assistance to Tripura for development of sericulture in the State is under con-